

Claims

- [c1]
 - 1. An electronic program guide system comprising:
 - a program grid including a plurality of cells, wherein each of said cells can contain program information; and
 - a visual indicator of an active point in time disposed within said program grid; said program grid including one axis representing time;
 - said visual indicator including a position corresponding to a single point in time within said grid.
- [c2]
 - 2. The system recited in claim 1, wherein said plurality of cells comprises a plurality of columns disposed along a horizontal axis and at least one row disposed along a vertical axis.
- [c3]
 - 3. The system recited in claim 2, wherein the horizontal axis represents time, and said position corresponding to said single point in time is a horizontal position.
- [c4]
 - 4. The system recited in claim 3, wherein said visual indicator is movable along the horizontal axis and vertical axis.
- [c5]
 - 5. The system recited in claim 1, wherein said visual indicator is an information line.
- [c6]
 - 6. The system recited in claim 1, wherein said visual indicator indicates one active cell within said grid.
- [c7]
 - 7. The system recited in claim 5, wherein said information line is vertically oriented.
- [c8]
 - 8. The system recited in claim 5, wherein said information line intersects a plurality of said cells.
- [c9]
 - 9. The system recited in claim 8, wherein said information line comprises a visually distinctive segment for indicating said one active cell.
- [c10]
 - 10. The system recited in claim 1, wherein said visual indicator is an icon.

[c11] 11. The system recited in claim 1, wherein said visual indicator is a visually distinctive graphical element.

[c12] 12. The system recited in claim 1, further comprising a visual indication of an active row within which said active cell is contained.

[c13] 13. The system recited in claim 12, wherein said visual indication of said active row, in combination with said visual indicator of said active point in time, indicate said active cell.

[c14] 14. The system recited in claim 1, further comprising a supplemental information display area, wherein said supplemental information display provides information on a program displayed within said active cell.

[c15] 15. The system recited in claim 1, further comprising a duration strip that provides a visual indication of airing time for a program displayed within said active cell.

[c16] 16. The system recited in claim 15, wherein said duration strip is disposed within said supplemental information display area.

[c17] 17. The system recited in claim 15, wherein said duration strip is movable to correspond with movement of said visual indicator of said active cell.

[c18] 18. The system recited in claim 15, wherein said duration strip comprises a visual indication that a portion of said airing time of said program is not displayed within said grid.

[c19] 19. The system recited in claim 1, further comprising a descriptive label that provides additional information on a program displayed within said active cell.

[c20] 20. The system recited in claim 19, wherein said descriptive label is disposed within said supplemental information display area.

[c21] 21. The system recited in claim 19, wherein said descriptive label is movable to correspond with movement of said information line.

[c22] 22. The system recited in claim 19, wherein the alignment of said descriptive

label with respect to said information line depends upon the alignment of said information line with respect to the start of said active cell.

- [c23] 23. The system recited in claim 22, wherein text displayed in said supplemental information display area wraps around said descriptive label.
- [c24] 24. The system recited in claim 4, wherein, in response to a user command to move said visual indicator up, said visual indicator is relocated to a new vertical position without changing said horizontal position.
- [c25] 25. The system recited in claim 4, wherein, in response to a user command to move said visual indicator down, said visual indicator is relocated to a new vertical position without changing said horizontal position.
- [c26] 26. The system recited in claim 4, wherein a first active cell within said grid is indicated, said first active cell displaying program information for a first program.
- [c27] 27. The system recited in claim 26, wherein, in response to a user command to move said visual indicator right, said visual indicator is relocated to a new horizontal position said new horizontal position corresponding to an end time of said first program.
- [c28] 28. The system recited in claim 27, wherein, in response to said user command, said first active cell is deactivated, and a second cell becomes active, said second cell being located on the same row and to the right of previous said first active cell, said second cell displaying program information for a second program, said second program having a start time equal to said end time of said first program.
- [c29] 29. The system recited in claim 4, wherein, in response to a user command to move said visual indicator left, said visual indicator is relocated to a new horizontal position corresponding to the start time of said grid.
- [c30] 30. The system recited in claim 4, wherein, in response to said user command, said first active cell is deactivated, and a second cell becomes active; said second cell being located to the left of said first active cell;

said second cell being the first cell appearing in said grid on said row.

[c31] 31. The system recited in claim 4, wherein, in response to a user command to move said visual indicator left, said visual indicator is relocated to a new horizontal position corresponding to the start time of a second cell; said second cell being located on the same row and to the left of said first active cell; said second cell being immediately adjacent to said first active cell.

[c32] 32. The system recited in claim 4, wherein, in response to said user command, said first active cell is deactivated, and said second cell becomes active.

[c33] 33. A method of displaying an electronic program guide comprising: displaying a program grid including a plurality of cells, wherein each of said cells can contain program information, said program grid including one axis representing time; and displaying a visual indicator of an active point in time disposed within said program grid, said visual indicator having a position corresponding to a single point in time within said grid.

[c34] 34. The method recited in claim 33, wherein said plurality of cells comprises a plurality of columns disposed along a horizontal axis and at least one row disposed along a vertical axis.

[c35] 35. The method recited in claim 34, wherein the horizontal axis represents time, and said position corresponding to said single point in time is a horizontal position.

[c36] 36. The method recited in claim 35, wherein said visual indicator is movable along the horizontal axis and vertical axis.

[c37] 37. The method recited in claim 33, wherein said visual indicator is an information line.

[c38] 38. The method recited in claim 33, wherein said visual indicator indicates one active cell within said grid.

- [c39] 39. The method recited in claim 37, wherein said information line is vertically oriented.
- [c40] 40. The method recited in claim 37, further comprising intersecting said plurality of said cells with said information line.
- [c41] 41. The method recited in claim 40, wherein said information line comprises a visually distinctive segment for indicating said one active cell.
- [c42] 42. The method recited in claim 33, wherein said visual indicator is an icon.
- [c43] 43. The method recited in claim 33, wherein said visual indicator is a visually distinctive graphical element.
- [c44] 44. The method recited in claim 33, further comprising providing a visual indication of an active row within which said active cell is contained.
- [c45] 45. The method recited in claim 44, wherein said visual indication of said active row, in combination with said visual indicator of said active point in time, indicate said active cell.
- [c46] 46. The method recited in claim 33, further comprising displaying a supplemental information display area that provides information on a program displayed within said active cell.
- [c47] 47. The method recited in claim 33, further comprising, displaying a duration strip that provides a visual indication of airing time for a program displayed within said active cell.
- [c48] 48. The method recited in claim 47, wherein said duration strip is disposed within said supplemental information display area.
- [c49] 49. The method recited in claim 47, further comprising, moving said duration strip is movable to correspond with movement of said visual indicator of said active cell.
- [c50] 50. The method recited in claim 47, wherein said duration strip comprises a visual indication that a portion of said airing time of said program is not

displayed within said grid.

- [c51] 51. The method recited in claim 33 further comprising, displaying a descriptive label that provides additional information on a program displayed within said active cell.
- [c52] 52. The method recited in claim 51 further comprising, displaying said descriptive label within said supplemental information display area.
- [c53] 53. The method recited in claim 51 further comprising, moving said descriptive label to correspond with movement of said information line.
- [c54] 54. The method recited in claim 51, wherein the alignment of said descriptive label with respect to said information line depends upon the alignment of said information line with respect to the start of said active cell.
- [c55] 55. The method recited in claim 54 further comprising, wrapping text displayed in said supplemental information display area around said descriptive label.
- [c56] 56. The method recited in claim 36 further comprising, relocating said visual indicator to a new vertical position without changing said horizontal position in response to a user command to move said visual indicator up.
- [c57] 57. The method recited in claim 36, further comprising, relocating said visual indicator to a new vertical position without changing said horizontal position in response to a user command to move said visual indicator down.
- [c58] 58. The method recited in claim 36, further comprising displaying a first active cell within said grid, wherein said first active cell displaying program information for a first program.
- [c59] 59. The method recited in claim 36, comprising relocating said visual indicator to a new horizontal position that corresponds to an end time of said first program, in response to a user command to move said visual indicator right.
- [c60] 60. The method recited in claim 36 further comprising, in response to said user command:
 - deactivating said first active cell;

activating a second cell, said second cell located on the same row and to the right of said first active cell;
displaying program information for a second program in said second cell, wherein said second program having a start time equal to said end time of said first program.

[c61] 61. The method recited in claim 36 comprising, relocating said visual indicator to a new horizontal position corresponding to the start time of said grid, in response to a user command to move said visual indicator left.

[c62] 62. The method recited in claim 36 further comprising, in response to said user command:
deactivated said first active cell; and
activating a second cell, said second cell being located to the left of said first active cell, wherein said second cell being the first cell appearing in said grid on said row.

[c63] 63. The method recited in claim 36, comprising relocating said visual indicator to a new horizontal position corresponding to the start time of a second cell, in response to a user command to move said visual indicator left, wherein said second cell being located on the same row and to the left of said first active cell, and wherein said second cell being immediately adjacent to said first active cell.

[c64] 64. The method recited in claim 36, further comprising, in response to said user command:
deactivating said first active cell is deactivated; and
activating said second cell.

[c65] 65. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon sequences of instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps comprising:
displaying a program grid including a plurality of cells, wherein each of said cells can contain program information, said program grid including one axis representing time; and
displaying a visual indicator of an active point in time disposed within said

program grid, said visual indicator having a position corresponding to a single point in time within said grid.

- [c66] 66. The computer-readable medium recited in claim 65, wherein said plurality of cells comprises a plurality of columns disposed along a horizontal axis and at least one row disposed along a vertical axis.
- [c67] 67. The computer-readable medium recited in claim 66, wherein the horizontal axis represents time, and said position corresponding to said single point in time is a horizontal position.
- [c68] 68. The computer-readable medium recited in claim 67, wherein said visual indicator is movable along the horizontal axis and vertical axis.
- [c69] 69. The computer-readable medium recited in claim 65, wherein said visual indicator is an information line.
- [c70] 70. The computer-readable medium recited in claim 65, wherein said visual indicator indicates one active cell within said grid.
- [c71] 71. The computer-readable medium recited in claim 69, wherein said information line is vertically oriented.
- [c72] 72. The computer-readable medium recited in claim 69, further comprising intersecting said plurality of said cells with said information line.
- [c73] 73. The computer-readable medium recited in claim 72, wherein said information line comprises a visually distinctive segment for indicating said one active cell.
- [c74] 74. The computer-readable medium recited in claim 65, wherein said visual indicator is an icon.
- [c75] 75. The computer-readable medium recited in claim 65, wherein said visual indicator is a visually distinctive graphical element.
- [c76] 76. The computer-readable medium recited in claim 65, further comprising providing a visual indication of an active row within which said active cell is

contained.

[c77] 77. The computer-readable medium recited in claim 76, wherein said visual indication of said active row, in combination with said visual indicator of said active point in time, indicate said active cell.

[c78] 78. The computer-readable medium recited in claim 65, further comprising displaying a supplemental information display area that provides information on a program displayed within said active cell.

[c79] 79. The computer-readable medium recited in claim 65, further comprising, displaying a duration strip that provides a visual indication of airing time for a program displayed within said active cell.

[c80] 80. The computer-readable medium recited in claim 79, wherein said duration strip is disposed within said supplemental information display area.

[c81] 81. The computer-readable medium recited in claim 79, further comprising, moving said duration strip is movable to correspond with movement of said visual indicator of said active cell.

[c82] 82. The computer-readable medium recited in claim 79, wherein said duration strip comprises a visual indication that a portion of said airing time of said program is not displayed within said grid.

[c83] 83. The computer-readable medium recited in claim 65 further comprising, displaying a descriptive label that provides additional information on a program displayed within said active cell.

[c84] 84. The computer-readable medium recited in claim 83 further comprising, displaying said descriptive label within said supplemental information display area.

[c85] 85. The computer-readable medium recited in claim 83 further comprising, moving said descriptive label to correspond with movement of said information line.

[c86] 86. The computer-readable medium recited in claim 83, wherein the alignment

of said descriptive label with respect to said information line depends upon the alignment of said information line with respect to the start of said active cell.

[c87] 87. The computer-readable medium recited in claim 86 further comprising, wrapping text displayed in said supplemental information display area around said descriptive label.

[c88] 88. The computer-readable medium recited in claim 68 further comprising, relocating said visual indicator to a new vertical position without changing said horizontal position in response to a user command to move said visual indicator up.

[c89] 89. The computer-readable medium recited in claim 68, further comprising, relocating said visual indicator to a new vertical position without changing said horizontal position in response to a user command to move said visual indicator down.

[c90] 90. The computer-readable medium recited in claim 68, further comprising displaying a first active cell within said grid, wherein said first active cell displaying program information for a first program.

[c91] 91. The computer-readable medium recited in claim 68, comprising relocating said visual indicator to a new horizontal position that corresponds to an end time of said first program, in response to a user command to move said visual indicator right.

[c92] 92. The computer-readable medium recited in claim 68 further comprising, in response to said user command:
deactivating said first active cell;
activating a second cell, said second cell located on the same row and to the right of said first active cell;
displaying program information for a second program in said second cell, wherein said second program having a start time equal to said end time of said first program.

[c93] 93. The computer-readable medium recited in claim 68 comprising, relocating

said visual indicator to a new horizontal position corresponding to the start time of said grid, in response to a user command to move said visual indicator left.

[c94] 94. The computer-readable medium recited in claim 68 further comprising, in response to said user command:
deactivated said first active cell; and
activating a second cell, said second cell being located to the left of said first active cell, wherein said second cell being the first cell appearing in said grid on said row.

[c95] 95. The computer-readable medium recited in claim 68, comprising relocating said visual indicator to a new horizontal position corresponding to the start time of a second cell, in response to a user command to move said visual indicator left, wherein said second cell being located on the same row and to the left of said first active cell, and wherein said second cell being immediately adjacent to said first active cell.

[c96] 96. The computer-readable medium recited in claim 68, further comprising, in response to said user command:
deactivating said first active cell is deactivated; and
activating said second cell.

[c97] 97. A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium for displaying an interactive electronic program guide comprising:
a code segment configured to cause a screen to display a program grid including a plurality of cells, wherein each of said cells can contain program information, said program grid including one axis representing time; and
a code segment configured to cause a screen to display a visual indicator of an active point in time disposed within said program grid, said visual indicator having a position corresponding to a single point in time within said grid.

[c98] 98. The computer program recited in claim 97, wherein said plurality of cells comprises a plurality of columns disposed along a horizontal axis and at least one row disposed along a vertical axis.

[c99] 99. The computer program recited in claim 98, wherein the horizontal axis represents time, and said position corresponding to said single point in time is a horizontal position.

[c100] 100. The computer program recited in claim 99, wherein said visual indicator is movable along the horizontal axis and vertical axis.

[c101] 101. The computer program recited in claim 97, wherein said visual indicator is an information line.

[c102] 102. The computer program recited in claim 97, wherein said visual indicator indicates one active cell within said grid.

[c103] 103. The computer program recited in claim 101, wherein said information line is vertically oriented.

[c104] 104. The computer program recited in claim 101, further comprising a code segment configured to cause a screen to display said information line intersecting said plurality of said cells.

[c105] 105. The computer program recited in claim 104, wherein said information line comprises a visually distinctive segment for indicating said one active cell.

[c106] 106. The computer program recited in claim 97, wherein said visual indicator is an icon.

[c107] 107. The computer program recited in claim 97, wherein said visual indicator is a visually distinctive graphical element.

[c108] 108. The computer program recited in claim 97, further comprising a code segment configured to cause a screen to display a visual indication of an active row within which said active cell is contained.

[c109] 109. The computer program recited in claim 108, wherein said visual indication of said active row, in combination with said visual indicator of said active point in time, indicate said active cell.

[c110] 110. The computer program recited in claim 97, further comprising a code

segment configured to cause a screen to display a supplemental information display area that provides information on a program displayed within said active cell.

- [c111] 111. The computer program recited in claim 97, further comprising a code segment configured to cause a screen to display a duration strip that provides a visual indication of airing time for a program displayed within said active cell.
- [c112] 112. The computer program recited in claim 111, wherein said duration strip is disposed within said supplemental information display area.
- [c113] 113. The computer program recited in claim 111, further comprising a code segment configured to cause a screen to move said duration strip to correspond with movement of said visual indicator of said active cell.
- [c114] 114. The computer program recited in claim 111, wherein said duration strip comprises a visual indication that a portion of said airing time of said program is not displayed within said grid.
- [c115] 115. The computer program recited in claim 97 further comprising a code segment configured to cause a screen to display a descriptive label that provides additional information on a program displayed within said active cell.
- [c116] 116. The computer program recited in claim 115 further comprising a code segment configured to cause a screen to display said descriptive label within said supplemental information display area.
- [c117] 117. The computer program recited in claim 115 further comprising a code segment configured to cause a screen to move said descriptive label to correspond with movement of said information line.
- [c118] 118. The computer program recited in claim 115, wherein the alignment of said descriptive label with respect to said information line depends upon the alignment of said information line with respect to the start of said active cell.
- [c119] 119. The computer program recited in claim 118 further comprising a code segment configured to cause a screen to wrap text displayed in said

supplemental information display area around said descriptive label.

[c120] 120. The computer program recited in claim 100 further comprising a code segment configured to cause a screen to relocate said visual indicator to a new vertical position without changing said horizontal position in response to a user command to move said visual indicator up.

[c121] 121. The computer program recited in claim 100, further comprising a code segment configured to cause a screen to relocate said visual indicator to a new vertical position without changing said horizontal position in response to a user command to move said visual indicator down.

[c122] 122. The computer program recited in claim 100, further comprising a code segment configured to cause a screen to display a first active cell within said grid, wherein said first active cell displaying program information for a first program.

[c123] 123. The computer program recited in claim 100, comprising a code segment configured to cause a screen to relocate said visual indicator to a new horizontal position that corresponds to an end time of said first program, in response to a user command to move said visual indicator right.

[c124] 124. The computer program recited in claim 100 further comprising a code segment configured to cause a screen to display, in response to said user command:
deactivation of said first active cell;
activation of a second cell, said second cell located on the same row and to the right of said first active cell; and
program information for a second program in said second cell, wherein said second program having a start time equal to said end time of said first program.

[c125] 125. The computer program recited in claim 100 comprising, a code segment configured to cause a screen to relocate said visual indicator to a new horizontal position corresponding to the start time of said grid, in response to a user command to move said visual indicator left.

[c126] 126. The computer program recited in claim 100 further comprising, a code segment configured to cause a screen to display, in response to said user command:
deactivation of said first active cell; and
activation of a second cell, said second cell being located to the left of said first active cell, wherein said second cell being the first cell appearing in said grid on said row.

[c127] 127. The computer program recited in claim 100, comprising a code segment configured to cause a screen to relocate said visual indicator to a new horizontal position corresponding to the start time of a second cell, in response to a user command to move said visual indicator left, wherein said second cell being located on the same row and to the left of said first active cell, and wherein said second cell being immediately adjacent to said first active cell.

[c128] 128. The computer program recited in claim 100, further comprising a code segment configured to cause a screen to display, in response to said user command:
deactivation of said first active cell; and
activation of said second cell.

[c129] 129. A computer data signal embodied on a carrier wave comprising:
a code segment configured to cause a screen to display a program grid including a plurality of cells, wherein each of said cells can contain program information, said program grid including one axis representing time; and
a code segment configured to cause a screen to display a visual indicator of an active point in time disposed within said program grid, said visual indicator having a position corresponding to a single point in time within said grid.

[c130] 130. The computer data signal recited in claim 129, wherein said plurality of cells comprises a plurality of columns disposed along a horizontal axis and at least one row disposed along a vertical axis.

[c131] 131. The computer data signal recited in claim 130, wherein the horizontal axis represents time, and said position corresponding to said single point in time is

a horizontal position.

- [c132] 132. The computer data signal recited in claim 131, wherein said visual indicator is movable along the horizontal axis and vertical axis.
- [c133] 133. The computer data signal recited in claim 129, wherein said visual indicator is an information line.
- [c134] 134. The computer data signal recited in claim 129, wherein said visual indicator indicates one active cell within said grid.
- [c135] 135. The computer data signal recited in claim 133, wherein said information line is vertically oriented.
- [c136] 136. The computer data signal recited in claim 133, further comprising a code segment configured to cause a screen to display said information line intersecting said plurality of said cells.
- [c137] 137. The computer data signal recited in claim 136, wherein said information line comprises a visually distinctive segment for indicating said one active cell.
- [c138] 138. The computer data signal recited in claim 129, wherein said visual indicator is an icon.
- [c139] 139. The computer data signal recited in claim 129, wherein said visual indicator is a visually distinctive graphical element.
- [c140] 140. The computer data signal recited in claim 139, further comprising a code segment configured to cause a screen to display a visual indication of an active row within which said active cell is contained.
- [c141] 141. The computer data signal recited in claim 129, wherein said visual indication of said active row, in combination with said visual indicator of said active point in time, indicate said active cell.
- [c142] 142. The computer data signal recited in claim 129, further comprising a code segment configured to cause a screen to display a supplemental information display area that provides information on a program displayed within said active

cell.

[c143] 143. The computer data signal recited in claim 129, further comprising a code segment configured to cause a screen to display a duration strip that provides a visual indication of airing time for a program displayed within said active cell.

[c144] 144. The computer data signal recited in claim 143, wherein said duration strip is disposed within said supplemental information display area.

[c145] 145. The computer data signal recited in claim 143, further comprising a code segment configured to cause a screen to move said duration strip to correspond with movement of said visual indicator of said active cell.

[c146] 146. The computer data signal recited in claim 143, wherein said duration strip comprises a visual indication that a portion of said airing time of said program is not displayed within said grid.

[c147] 147. The computer data signal recited in claim 129 further comprising a code segment configured to cause a screen to display a descriptive label that provides additional information on a program displayed within said active cell.

[c148] 148. The computer data signal recited in claim 147 further comprising a code segment configured to cause a screen to display said descriptive label within said supplemental information display area.

[c149] 149. The computer data signal recited in claim 147 further comprising a code segment configured to cause a screen to move said descriptive label to correspond with movement of said information line.

[c150] 150. The computer data signal recited in claim 147, wherein the alignment of said descriptive label with respect to said information line depends upon the alignment of said information line with respect to the start of said active cell.

[c151] 151. The computer data signal recited in claim 150 further comprising a code segment configured to cause a screen to wrap text displayed in said supplemental information display area around said descriptive label.

[c152] 152. The computer data signal recited in claim 132 further comprising a code

segment configured to cause a screen to relocate said visual indicator to a new vertical position without changing said horizontal position in response to a user command to move said visual indicator up.

[c153] 153. The computer data signal recited in claim 132, further comprising a code segment configured to cause a screen to relocate said visual indicator to a new vertical position without changing said horizontal position in response to a user command to move said visual indicator down.

[c154] 154. The computer data signal recited in claim 132, further comprising a code segment configured to cause a screen to display a first active cell within said grid, wherein said first active cell displaying program information for a first program.

[c155] 155. The computer data signal recited in claim 132, comprising a code segment configured to cause a screen to relocate said visual indicator to a new horizontal position that corresponds to an end time of said first program, in response to a user command to move said visual indicator right.

[c156] 156. The computer data signal recited in claim 132 further comprising a code segment configured to cause a screen to display, in response to said user command:
deactivation of said first active cell;
activation of a second cell, said second cell located on the same row and to the right of said first active cell; and
program information for a second program in said second cell, wherein said second program having a start time equal to said end time of said first program.

[c157] 157. The computer data signal recited in claim 132 comprising, a code segment configured to cause a screen to relocate said visual indicator to a new horizontal position corresponding to the start time of said grid, in response to a user command to move said visual indicator left.

[c158] 158. The computer data signal recited in claim 132 further comprising, a code segment configured to cause a screen to display, in response to said user command:

deactivation of said first active cell; and
activation of a second cell, said second cell being located to the left of said first active cell, wherein said second cell being the first cell appearing in said grid on said row.

[c159] 159. The computer data signal recited in claim 132, comprising a code segment configured to cause a screen to relocate said visual indicator to a new horizontal position corresponding to the start time of a second cell, in response to a user command to move said visual indicator left, wherein said second cell being located on the same row and to the left of said first active cell, and wherein said second cell being immediately adjacent to said first active cell.

[c160] 160. The computer data signal recited in claim 132, further comprising a code segment configured to cause a screen to display, in response to said user command:
deactivation of said first active cell; and
activation of said second cell.